Improvement of the Vallivattom bridge.

97. Mr. A. L. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware of the immediate necessity of improving the small bridge at Vallivattom on the road leading from Karupadanna market to the Vallivattom ferry which was damaged completely by the heavy floods of 1099;

(b) whether the Government intend taking immediate steps to repair the same?

Mr. V.K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—Sir, am I to understand from the answer to (b) that the work will be taken up this year itself?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not in my power to say that. I think the Government may take it up next year.

Medium of instruction in Primary Schools.

98. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state what language is the medium of instruction in Primary Schools in places where the Vernacular is Tamil;

2. if it is not Tamil, will the Government be pleased to state how children; who will be only between five and ten years of age, can be made to understand in a language foreign to them?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Malayalam is the general medium of instruction in all Primary Schools in the State in accordance with article 15 (3), *Cochin Education Code*. In schools situated on the borders of Tamil Districts, Tamil is taught and is freely used for purposes of instruction.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—In schools situated on the borders of Tamil Districts, I understand that certain Head-masters take objection to the teachers using Tamil as the medium of instruction. Will the Government be pleased to issue circulars that Tamil should be the medium of instruction?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Instructions have been given. I have issued a circular to that effect.

Encouragement of Malayalam Short-hand.

99. Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Will the Government be pleased to state what they have done to encourage Malayalam Short-hand?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Government have sanctioned the opening of a Malayalam Short-hand class in the G. T. School, Trichur, as an experimental measure, and the entertaining of the services of the founder Mr. N. S. Pandalai himself to ensure the success of the class.

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